

### **HJ 542 Transit Equity and Modernization Study**

- The Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study Interim Report is now available on the project website (<https://www.vatransitequity.com/resources/>). The Interim Report showcases the study's initial findings based on the six technical area analyses and outreach with transit agencies and the public.
- The Interim Report will inform the study's Action Plan, which will serve as a blueprint for advancing efforts throughout the Commonwealth. The final report is due to the General Assembly in August.

### **SMART SCALE Round 5**

- Round 5 pre-application period opens in March 2022.
- For technical assistance in application preparation, please contact Taylor Jenkins ([taylor.jenkins@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:taylor.jenkins@drpt.virginia.gov)) for transit applications and Randy Selleck ([randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov)) for rail applications.

### **2021 Federal Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs)**

- FTA and FHWA issued updated Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) on January 5, 2022 for incorporation into Unified Planning Work Programs and State Planning and Research Work Programs.
- Several of the emphasis areas focus on advancing equity and environmental justice in transportation planning, helping achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, and increasing resilience to extreme weather events resulting from climate change.
- Flexibility in how MPOs and State DOTs incorporate PEAs into the transportation planning process, may be included as programs are updated.
- More information may be found here: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/transportation-planning/2021-planning-emphasis-areas>